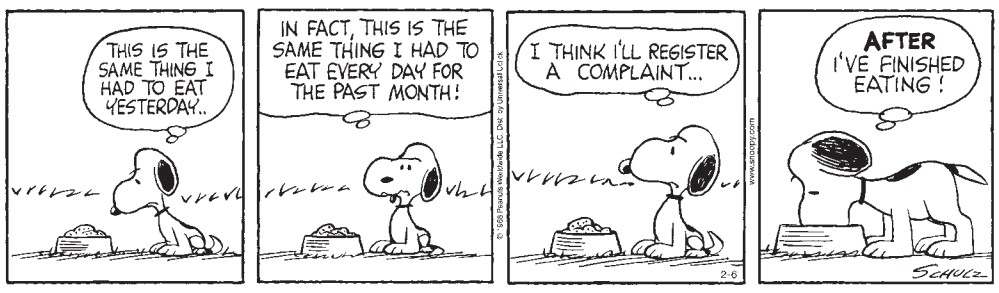
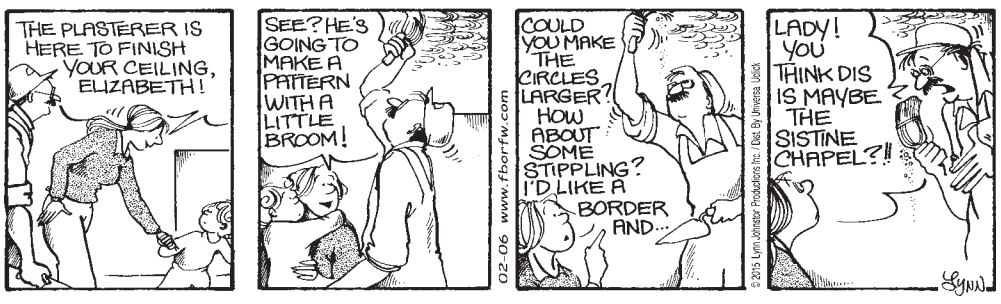
PEANUTS BY CHARLES M. SCHULZ



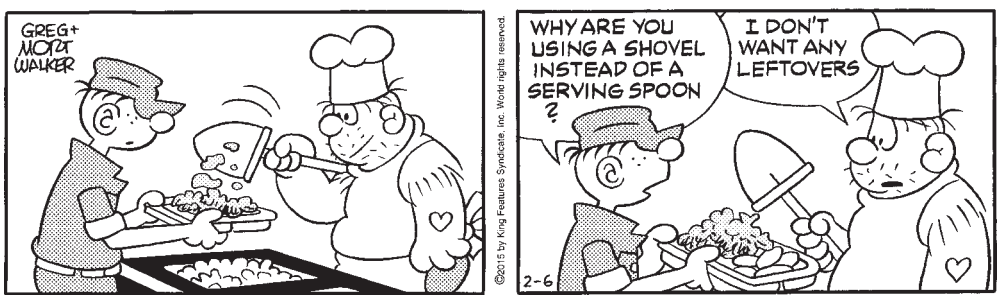
FOR BETTER OR WORSE BY LYNN JOHNSTON



B.C. BY JOHNNY HART

PICKLES BY BRIAN CRANE

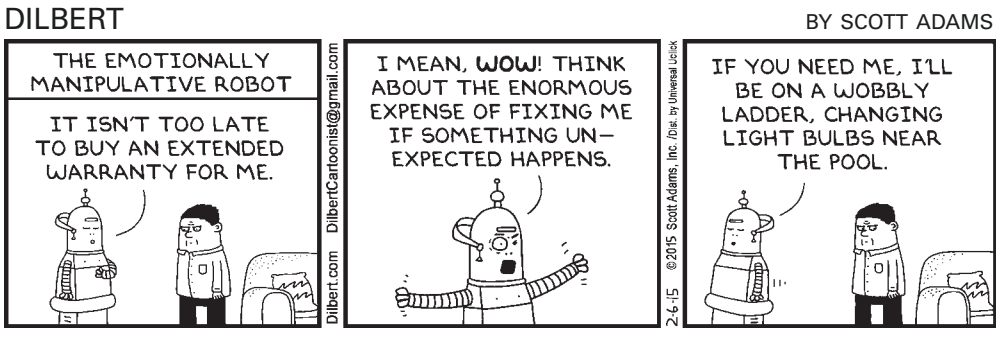
BEETLE BAILEY BY MORT WALKER



GARFIELD BY JIM DAVIS

BLONDIE BY DEAN YOUNG AND STAN DRAKE

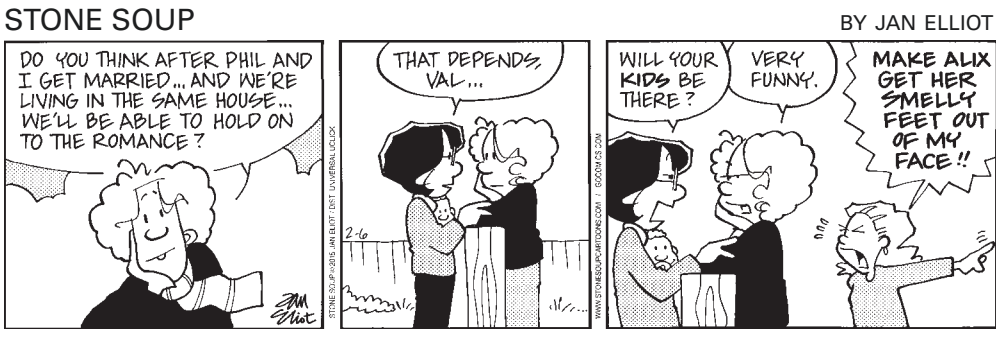
DILBERT BY SCOTT ADAMS



THE WIZARD OF ID BY BRANT PARKER AND JOHNNY HART

LUANN BY GREG EVANS

STONE SOUP BY JAN ELLIOT



ZITS BY JERRY SCOTT AND JIM BORGMAN

BIG NATE BY LINCOLN PEIRCE

DEAR ABBY

Ignorance of dad's new life is bliss to his daughters

JEANNE PHILLIPS
Advice

Dear Abby: I am a widower in my mid-80s and have met a lovely widow, "Diane," also in her 80s. What started as a "let's do lunch" friendship has developed into a close, affectionate relationship. Neither of us wants to take this to the next level, but we do want to spend as much time together as we can in the years left to us. We have a very active social life with friends and with Diane's family who live in the same town.

My daughters, who live in another city and rarely visit, profess to like her and say they are happy that I have someone in my life. But they have asked that I be sensitive to their feelings of loss for my late wife, who died four years ago. They don't want me to share what we do and where we go, which is hard when Diane is such a part of my life.

My problem is Diane and I want to spend a weekend in the city in which my children live to attend the theater. We will be sharing a hotel room. Do we tell them our plans and that we would like to see them while there, or not? Diane isn't comfortable going behind their backs, but she also doesn't want to cause a rift in my family. Neither do I. What would you advise? — **Uncertain In Maryland**

Dear Uncertain: Your daughters have told you they don't want you to share what you do with your lady friend and where you go, and I am advising you to abide by their wishes. If word should get back to them that you were in town and they ask about it, be honest and don't lie. And please, live every moment of your life to the fullest in the time God allows, and don't permit your family to diminish one minute of it.

Dear Abby: My older sister and I are very close to our "Aunt Lil." She has always jokingly told us we are "her children, too" because she never had any of her own and was active in our lives growing up.

Aunt Lil is in her late 60s and in declining health. Now single, she smokes two packs of cigarettes a day, but counts it only as one because they are slims. She also has high blood pressure, high cholesterol, etc.

The other day, while visiting with my mom, Aunt Lil started complaining about getting older and said how thankful she is to have my sister and me to take care of her when she's too old to take care of herself. The two of us gave each other the "Not me ... you!" look.

While we love her dearly, when the time comes, Aunt Lil will be off to a nursing home or have private home health care. Should we approach this with her now or wait and blindside her if/when it becomes an issue? — **Careful Planning In California**

Dear Careful Planning: Having been so close to you and your sister since you were children, I can understand why Aunt Lil might have expected some kindness in return. However, because the two of you aren't up to the task, she should be told now. It may provide an incentive for her to take better care of her health. Even if it doesn't, it may spur her to think about her assets and planning for her care or supervision should she need it in the future. Because you don't want the bother, suggest she involve another trusted family member or a social worker to watch out for her if she's no longer competent to manage her affairs.

Dear Abby is written by Abigail Van Buren, also known as Jeanne Phillips, and was founded by her mother, Pauline Phillips. Contact Dear Abby at www.DearAbby.com or P.O. Box 69440, Los Angeles, CA 90069.

DAYS GONE BY

100 Years Ago
From the East Oregonian
Feb. 6, 1915

"Guilty of manslaughter" was the verdict reached by the jury this afternoon at 2:10, just two hours after they had retired to the jury room. It was 2:30, however, before the jurors filed into the court room and delivered their verdict to the bailiff, twenty minutes having been required to summon District Attorney Steiwer and Col. Raley for the defense. Richard Burke, the defendant, sat between Col. Raley and his parents to hear the verdict read by Deputy Clerk Harry Rees. The verdict agreed with the general opinion formed by the spectators and to what it would be. The penalty for manslaughter is one to fifteen years in the penitentiary and a fine not to exceed $5000.

50 Years Ago
From the East Oregonian
Feb. 6, 1965

Statistics show that one in every ten wells is a "dry hole" — and it appears that Pendleton may have hit that one-in-ten rule with its latest well. Preliminary tests indicate that, at best, city well number six will be unsatisfactory. The well was drilled to 1,500 feet at a cost of $75,000 in the Sherwood area. City water superintendent Ray Struthers said Pendleton started to search for a site for well number six in 1962. Water department figures showed the city was about to reach maximum use of its five wells and another one was needed to take care of growth. The first test run on Thursday showed that at a pumping level of 350 feet the well produced about 350 gallons of water a minute. The city had hoped the well would produce 2,500 gallons of water a minute. What's more, the temperature of the water was a bothersome 69 degrees, too warm for good tap water.

25 Years Ago
From the East Oregonian
Feb. 6, 1990

The young racers at Skate City U.S.A. have gone beyond the conventional to find a team sport they can embrace — speed skating on roller skates. The Skate City Bullets are making a name for themselves in the Northwest. The Bullets are Pendleton's first chartered club with the United States Amateur Confederation of Roller Skating. They're traveling to meets around the Northwest competing for trophies and the chance to go to the National Championships for Amateur Rollerskating in Florida this coming June. The Bullets currently have 11 skaters on their roster.

THIS DAY IN HISTORY

Today is the 37th day of 2015. There are 328 days left in the year.

Today's Highlight in History:

On Feb. 6, 1952, Britain's King George VI died at Sandringham House in Norfolk, England; he was succeeded as monarch by his elder daughter, who became Queen Elizabeth II.

On this date:

In 1788, Massachusetts became the sixth state to ratify the U.S. Constitution.

In 1815, the state of New Jersey issued the first American railroad charter to John Stevens, who proposed a rail link between Trenton and New Brunswick. (The line, however, was never built.)

In 1899, a peace treaty between the United States and Spain was ratified by the U.S. Senate.

In 1911, Ronald Wilson Reagan, the 40th president of the United States, was born in Tampico, Illinois.

In 1922, Cardinal Archille Ratti was elected pope; he took the name Pius XI.

In 1933, the 20th Amendment to the U.S. Constitution, the so-called "lame duck" amendment, was proclaimed in effect by Secretary of State Henry Stimson.

In 1973, Dixy Lee Ray was appointed by President Richard Nixon to be the first woman to head the Atomic Energy Commission.

In 1987, *Wall Street Journal* reporter Gerald Seib was released after being detained six days by Iran, accused of being a spy for Israel; Iran said the detention was a result of misunderstandings.

In 1998, President Bill Clinton signed a bill changing the name of Washington National Airport to Ronald Reagan Washington National Airport.

Today's Birthdays: Actress Zsa Zsa Gabor is 98. Actor Patrick Macnee is 93. Cinematographer and filmmaker Haskell Wexler (Film: "Medium Cool") is 93. Actor Rip Torn is 84. Actress Mamie Van Doren is 84. Actor Mike Farrell is 76. Former NBC News anchorman Tom Brokaw is 75. Singer Fabian is 72. Actress Gayle Hunnicutt is 72. Producer-director-writer Jim Sheridan is 66. Singer Natalie Cole is 65. Actor Jon Walmsley is 59. Actress Kathy Najimy is 58. Rock musician Simon Phillips (Toto) is 58. Actor-director Robert Townsend is 58. Actor Barry Miller is 57. Actress Megan Gallagher is 55. Rock singer Axl Rose (Guns N' Roses) is 53. Country singer Richie McDonald is 53. Singer Rick Astley is 49.

Thought for Today: "Cherish your wilderness." — *Maxine Kumin (1925-2014).*